

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 26-36 are currently pending. Claims 26-36 are hereby added. Claims 1-25 are hereby canceled without prejudice or surrender of subject matter. Claims 26, 29, 32 and 34 are independent and are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 11, and 13

Claims 1, 3, 11, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,987; hereinafter referred to as "Ismail") in view of Knowles et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,505,348; hereinafter referred to as "Knowles"), Young et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0185545 A1; hereinafter referred to as "Young") and Lawler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,763; hereinafter referred to as "Lawler"). Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to address the rejection.

Therefore, Ismail, Knowles, Young and Lawler fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1.

claims 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail in further view of Knowles, Young, Lawler, Segman (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,619) and Shah-Nazaroff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,881; hereinafter referred to as "Shah-Nazaroff").

claims 4 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail in view of Knowles, Young, Lawler, Shah-Nazaroff and Lawler (U.S. Patent No. 5,758,259; hereinafter referred to as "Lawler '259").

claims 5 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail in view of Knowles, Young, Lawler and Amano (U.S. Patent No. 5,585,865).

claims 6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail in view of Knowles, Young, Lawler and Schulhof et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,572,442; hereinafter referred to as "Schulhof").

claims 7 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail in view of Knowles, Young, Lawler, Schulhof and Sprague et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,247,575; hereinafter referred to as "Sprague").

claims 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail in view of Knowles, Young, Lawler and Hendricks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,785; hereinafter referred to as "Hendricks").

claims 9 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail in view of Knowles, Young, Lawler, Hendricks and Seth-Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,829,569; hereinafter referred to as "Seth-Smith").

claims 10 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ismail in view of Knowles, Young, Lawler, Hendricks, Seth-Smith and Sprague.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 26-36 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

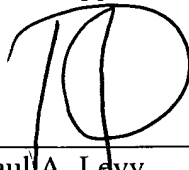
Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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